

Message Text

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16
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 IO-13 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 SIL-01 LAB-04 ACDA-07 OPR-02

/095 W

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R 231449Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8442

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMCONSUL GOTEBORG UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 4555

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SW, CZ

SUBJECT: SWEDISH DEMONSTRATIONS PROTESTING SOVIET INVASION
AND OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. TWO SWEDISH
DEMONSTRATIONS PROTESTING THE 1968 SOVIET INVASION AND
SUBSEQUENT OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA WERE HELD IN
STOCKHOLM ON AUGUST 21, THE 8TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOVIET
INTRUSION. APPROXIMATELY 1,700 PERSONS PARTICIPATED
IN THE TWO DEMONSTRATION MARCHES WHICH WERE CARRIED
OFF WITHOUT INCIDENT. END SUMMARY.

2. DESPITE AN UNUSUALLY WARM SUMMER DAY, APPROXIMATELY
1,500 STOCKHOLMERS CHOSE TO MARK THE 1968 SOVIET
INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY PARTICIPATING IN A
2-HOUR DEMONSTRATION MARCH IN DOWNTOWN STOCKHOLM
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INCLUDING A ROUTE PAST THE NEW SOVIET EMBASSY. THE PROTEST

WAS ARRANGED BY "THE 21ST OF AUGUST COMMITTEE AGAINST THE SOVIET OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA," WHOSE COMMITTEE INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM 16 OTHERWISE DIVERSE GROUPS. THESE LATTER INCLUDED THE YOUTH SECTIONS OF THE CENTER, LIBERAL AND MODERATE PARTIES, THE SWEDISH COMMUNIST PARTY (SKP), THE ACTION GROUP FRONT AGAINST THE SUPERPOWERS, AND THE EASTERN EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, ADHERENTS OF NEITHER THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY NOR THE COMMUNIST PARTY (VPK) TOOK PART.

3. PRINCIPAL THEMES OF THE SLOGANS AND SPEECHES DURING THE PROTEST WERE DEMANDS FOR THE RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, THE REMOVAL OF SOVIET TROOPS FROM THAT COUNTRY, AND "SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN THEIR FIGHT FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE." A RESOLUTION ADDRESSED TO CPSU SECRETARY GENERAL BREZHNEV CRITICIZED THE DUPLICITY OF SOVIET EXPRESSIONS OF PEACE AND DETENTE WHILE THOUSANDS OF SOVIET TROOPS CONTINUED TO OCCUPY CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

4. A SECOND DEMONSTRATION ORGANIZED BY THE COMMUNIST WORKERS ASSOCIATION (KAR) WITH APPROXIMATELY 200 PARTICIPANTS, MARCHED TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY IN STOCKHOLM WHERE A MEETING WAS HELD TO DENOUNCE THE 1968 SOVIET INVASION AND THE CONTINUED OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY RUSSIAN TROOPS. LIKE THE MAIN DEMONSTRATION, THIS ONE WAS CARRIED OUT IN ORDERLY FASHION WITH NO VIOLENCE AND NO ARRESTS.
END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: THIS YEAR'S DEMONSTRATIONS ATTRACTED MORE THAN TWICE THE NUMBER LAST YEAR WHEN 800 PERSONS, LED BY AUTHOR JAN MYRDAL, TOOK PART IN PROTEST MARCHES. WHILE THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT THIS YEAR APPARENTLY CHOSE TO REFRAIN FROM PUBLIC STATEMENTS TO MARK THIS ANNIVERSARY, THERE IS LITTLE DISCERNIBLE EVIDENCE THAT SWEDISH-CZECHOSLOVAK RELATIONS HAVE IMPROVED APPRECIABLY OR AT ALL SINCE
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THE VITRIOLIC EXCHANGE IN APRIL 1975 BETWEEN PALME AND HUSAK OVER THE FATE OF ALEXANDER DUBCEK. END
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SMITH

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NNN

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